country in the sea-coast and lake-side places of this State and whether the levying of a high duty on it does not materially affect its price and so render the position of the workers often extremely helpless in leading even a hand-to-mouth existence; and

(*c*) whether the duty levied on coir now (13-12-1103) bears to its price the same proportion as it did ten years ago, and, if not, whether, in the interests of public well-being, the Government will consider the question of reduction of the present rate of duty levied on it?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Coir Bh. Rs. 5,69,591
Cocoanut husk ,, 4,159

(*b*) The manufacture of coir is one of the chief cottage industries of the poor in the backwater region. The duty levied on coir is not more than five per cent. of the market value of the ordinary varieties. This is not high. Travancore coir has a good market and in its better varieties hold practically a monopoly position in the trade. The levying of the existing low rate of duty on coir cannot therefore materially affect its selling price.

(*c*) Information regarding the market value of coir ten years ago is not available. Its present market value is a little higher than the tariff value and therefore it is against the accepted principle of Customs Law to reduce the tariff value now. Any reduction in the rate of duty on coir will also adversely affect the mats and matting industry which supports a large section of manufacturers and labourers in the country since, without the prohibition offered by the export duty on the raw material, it would become possible for mats and matting to be manufactured abroad in competition with Travancore manufactures.

*Control of the Police Department.*

10. **MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for the effective control of the Police Department since the departure of Mr. W. H. Pitt?

**MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Secretary to Government*): The Government appointed the Ag. District Superintendent of Police, Trivandrum, to be in charge of the current duties of the Commissioner of Police under the personal control of the Dewan. The present Commissioner took charge on the 17th August 1928.

*Cocoanut Palm Diseases.*

11. **MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any statistics of cocoanut palm diseases have been or are being prepared by the Agricultural Department for each taluk?

(*b*) If so, will they be pleased to lay on the table the statistics for the last five years (1099-1103)?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing an expert to investigate the diseases of cocoanut trees?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. G. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

(*d*) Will they be pleased to state in how many taluks agricultural demonstration has been made by the Department?

(*e*) Will they be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the demonstrations conducted on private compounds and fields by the Department for the last five years?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Statistics of cocoanut palm diseases have not been and are not being collected for each taluk.

(*b*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

(*c*) Experts are already investigating the diseases of cocoanut trees.

(*d*) Demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation have been conducted by the Agricultural Department in all the taluks except Peermade and Devicolam.

(*e*) The lists of demonstrations, conducted on private lands during 1099, 1100 and 1101 are appended to the published Annual Reports of the Department for those years and those conducted in 1102 and 1103 are * laid on the table.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to collect statistics of the several diseases?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; the Director will be requested to see if he can collect the statistics, and to supply the statistics if he can do so.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): With reference to part (*c*), will the Government be pleased to state who the experts are that are now investigating the diseases?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure; but I believe they are the Agricultural Inspectors themselves. They are proficient in their work.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): May I know who they are?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Director tells me that it is the Government Mycologist.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): How long has he been investigating the diseases?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice. I have no information.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): May I know the result of the investigation?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the report before me. He is now submitting the reports of the investigations to the Director, it seems.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to place before the Council the result of the investigation?

* *Vide* Appendices A and B—pages 15 and 16.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, when the investigation is complete Government have no objection to place the report before the Council.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : May I know the extent of investigation that has so far been made ?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government have no information.

*Scarcity of water in Karunagapalli Taluk.*

12 . **MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what they have done in regard to the repeated representations made by the people in respect of the scarcity of pure water in the coastal portions of the Karunagapalli taluk ?

(*b*) Are not the Government aware that the inhabitants of those parts are put to great hardship on account of the want of good water and that they often succumb to death consequent on the diseases caused by the same ?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take for redressing these grievances ?

**MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) An estimate for Rs. 4,275 has been sanctioned for sinking three wells in the coastal village of Trikunnapuzha in the Kartikapalli taluk and after these are sunk and their effect is ascertained, the question of providing wells for Karunagapalli will be taken up.

**MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : When was the estimate sanctioned for the sinking of the three wells ?

**MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR** (*Secretary to Government*) : 8th May 1928.

*Report of the Excise Committee.*

13. **MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when the Excise Committee submitted its report to the Government ; and

(*b*) whether they have passed any orders thereon ?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) On the 3rd November 1924.

(*b*) Formal orders have not been passed on the report as a whole ; but many of the recommendations have been given effect to by the Government.

*President, Village Panchayat Court, Quilon.*

14. **MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how long the posts of the President and Judge of the Quilon Panchayat Court have been lying vacant ; and

(*b*) in how many cases delay was occasioned in the filling up of vacancies in the Judicial Department during the last three years (1101-1103) ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

# Appendix A.

*Vide* **Answer to Question No. 11.**

Statement of demonstrations conducted by the Agricultural Department in 1102.

| No | Name of Taluk. | No. of demonstrations on | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Paddy. | Cocoa-nut. | Tapioca. | Sugar-cane | Ginger. | Banana. |
| 1 | Tovala | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2 | Kalkulam | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | Neyyattinkara | 2 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 4 | Trivandrum | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | Chiryinkil | 7 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | Quilon | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| 7 | Kunnattur | ... | 2 | ... | .. | ... | ... |
| 8 | Karunagapalli | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9 | Kartikapalli | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 | Mavelikara | ... | 1 | .. | ... | ... | ... |
| 11 | Pattanamtitta | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 12 | Tiruvalla | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 13 | Ambalapuzha | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 14 | Pattanapuram | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15 | Shencotta | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 16 | Vaikam | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 17 | Kottayam | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| 18 | Changanachery | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 19 | Minachil | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 20 | Muvattupuzha | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 21 | Todupuzha | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 22 | Kunnatnad | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

# Appendix B.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 11.**

Statement of demonstrations conducted by the Agricultural Department in 1103.

| No. | Name of Taluk. | No. of demonstrations on | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Paddy. | Cocoa-nut. | Tapioca. | Sugar-cane. | Ginger. | Banana. |
| 1 | Agastisvaram | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2 | Kalkulam | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | Neyyattinkara | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 4 | Trivandrum | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | Chirayinkil | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | Quilon | 2 | 5 | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| 7 | Karunagapalli | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 8 | Pattanapuram | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9 | Shencotta | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 10 | Mavelikara | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 11 | Tiruvalla | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 12 | Changanachery | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| 13 | Kottayam | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 14 | Minachil | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... |
| 15 | Todupuzha | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 16 | Vaikam | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 17 | Shertallai | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 18 | Muvattupuzha | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 19 | Kunnatnad | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | Parur | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |

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